contributed financially to the Group of 77's Account on ECDC as well as to the Independent South Commission which was recently established for strengthening South-South Cooperation as an important objective.

Promotion of IAS officers having field experience

*384. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any list of the IAS officers who have good field experience as District Collectors or Deputy Commissioners;

(b) whether the tone of administration and policy making would improve by promoting such officers to senior positings in the Central Government;

(c) whether there are any safeguards to see that officers without adequate field experience are not posted in sensitive positions in the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir, but the Department of Personnel and training maintains particulars of the posts held by officers of the Indian Administrative Service, including the period spent by each officer as District Collector or Deputy Commissioner.

(b) The officers who hold senior positions in the Central Government include the IAS officers on deputation from the State Cadres and who have the relevant experience in the District and State Administration

(c) and (d) The experience gained by officers in field assignments is taken into consideration while making their appointment to posts under Government of India. Officers of the Indian Administrative Service should have a minimum of 3 years of field experience for appointment as Deputy Secretary or Director in the Government of India.

Disparities in per capita urban and rural incomes

*388. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 20-Point Programme and other rural Development schemes are planned to reduce the disparities in urban-rural incomes; and

(b) if so, what was the rural urban per capita income ratio in 1970-71 and also when the 20-point Programme was introduced and what it is now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The major thrust of the 20-Point programme, which was initially started in 1975 and subsequently revised in 1982 and restructured in 1986 is eradication of poverty, raising productivity, reducing income inequalities and removing social and economic disparities and improving the quality of life. The special programme for rural development namely Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) are also aimed at creating self-employment opportunities and wage employment opportunities in the rural areas and to assist the rural poors in generating hiigher in-